

MEPHIBOSHETH: David's Ministry

study #7



THE LIFE OF DAVID: Cultivating a Heart for God

“Travel back with me 3000 years as we return to the days of ancient dynasties and the kings of Israel. It's a brutal era when all those in the family of the previous king were exterminated once a new dynasty took control. Naturally, all members of the former monarch's family had every reason to live in fear once the new king took the throne. Knowing that David was Israel's new king, the members of Saul's family fled for their lives, erroneously thinking that David would treat them like all other eastern kings...”

Chuck Swindoll, [The Grace Awakening](#)

(Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

Prologue: *2 Samuel 4:4*

Mephibosheth is introduced to us here in chapter 4. Why? What is the context? What's going on?

What does “Mephibosheth” mean? (see a Bible dictionary or concordance)

Scene 1: *2 Samuel 9:1-13*

What is the context of chapter 9? On a scale of 1 - 10, what kind of year is David having?

Summarize chapter 9, which is the core of this story. (How does *1 Samuel 20:13-16* relate?)

Scene 2: *2 Samuel 16:1-4*

What is the context of chapter 16? On a scale of 1 - 10, what kind of year is David having now?

What questions do you have after reading this passage?

Scene 3: 2 Samuel 19:24-30

This episode forms the conclusion of “scene 2”. Now what is happening to David?

What does this passage reveal about the characters of Ziba and Mephibosheth?

Chuck Swindoll, in his book *The Grace Awakening*, makes the following observations about Mephibosheth and the analogies that apply to us today. Fill out the chart below by making those associations...

<p>MEPHIBOSHETH: <i>Truths about his Life</i></p>	<p>YOU AND ME: <i>Theological applications</i></p>
He once enjoyed fellowship with his father	
He suffered a fall that left him crippled	
Out of love for Jonathan, David gave him grace	
He had nothing, deserved nothing, and didn't even try to win David's favor	
David took him from a barren place and restored him to honor	
David adopted him into his royal family	
His crippled limb was a constant reminder of grace	



**LIFE RESPONSE:
What Does it Mean to Me?**

I was that
Mephibosheth
Crippled by my twisted
pride and
hiding from You
in a barren place
where You could not
find me
where You would not give me
what I deserved
But somehow You found me and
I don't understand why
but
You gave me
what I *do not* deserve
You not only spared
my desolate life but
You made it bountiful
And here at Your table
I will thank You
my King

- ◆ What do you think it did for David to have Mephibosheth around?

- ◆ Besides God, has anyone ever treated you like David treated Mephibosheth? How did it make you feel?

- ◆ Have you ever been in a position to help someone like a Mephibosheth? How did it affect you to give grace?

- ◆ **CHALLENGE:** In the space below, write a brief poem thanking God for His grace in your life.



Recommended Reading:

- ◆ Jerry Bridges, Transforming Grace
- ◆ Joseph Cooke, Celebration of Grace
- ◆ Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel
- ◆ David Seamands, Healing Grace
- ◆ Chuck Swindoll, The Grace Awakening
- ◆ Philip Yancey, What's So Amazing about Grace?